

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

Applicants submit that the entry of the present amendment is appropriate since it is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination.

Telephone Interview

Applicants note with appreciation the telephone interview with Examiner Qin on September 17, 2007. During the course of the interview, several possibilities for amending claim 1 were discussed. It was agreed that applicant would submit an amendment with one of the suggested proposals being added to claim 1 and others being added by way of dependent claims. By way of the present amendment, this has now been accomplished.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Stanec (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,584) in view of Yanagisawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,981). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Stanec reference shows a tip of a tip of a cane or similar stand with the bottom of the tip having a wide opening and with the opening decreasing in size in the upward direction.

Yanagisawa teaches a spring for a drum which is shown as prior art in Figure 3 of the present application. One leg of the stand for the drum is placed in an upper portion and the lower portion is formed in ring with the hollow area extending through the ring.

Claim 1 has now been amended to make it clear that the circular opening at the bottom of the shell wall has a smaller diameter than that of the hollow center. This is clearly different than

Stanec where the hollow center has a smaller diameter. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 as amended overcomes this rejection.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable.

New claims 5 and 6 have also been added. Claim 5 makes it clear that the hollow center is surrounded by the shell wall. This is different from the arrangement shown in Yanagisawa where the hollow center is open and not surrounded. Claim 6 has been added which also describes the function of the circular opening, namely to increase the slip resistance of the spring. Applicants submit that claims 5 and 6 are additionally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner either alone or combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all the claims are respectively requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/823,534
Amendment dated September 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2007

Docket No.: 2450-0671PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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